



February 17, 2015

Mr. Jeremy Pagan, Water Resource Control Engineer
 Cal EPA - Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region
 364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205
 Redding, CA 96002

Subject: Bell-Carter Olive Company - Order No. R5-2015-XXXX (NPDES No. CA0083721)
 Tentative Draft NPDES Permit Review Comments

Dear Jeremy:

Bell-Carter Olive Company, Inc. (Bell-Carter) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments related to the tentative draft of Order No. R5-2015-XXX (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System [NPDES] permit No. CA0083721). The comments included herein are submitted for your consideration in the development of the final Order.

1. Effluent Limitations:

- a. Page 4 (section IV.A.1 – Effluent Limitations and Discharge Specifications):
 - i. Delete reference to Monitoring Locations “EFF-002 and EFF-003,” as these monitoring locations are not included elsewhere in the permit.

2. Internal Flow Limitations:

- a. Page 6 (section IV.A.2 – Internal Flow Limitations):
 - i. This section assigns numeric limitations for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), total suspended solids (TSS), and pH for internal flows at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Not only does there not appear to be regulatory justification for these internal limitations (see comment 12), but their assignment is less stringent than those established for the discharged flow. Consider removal of all references to internal monitoring locations and associated requirements.

3. Chronic Toxicity:

- a. Page 13 (section VI.C.2.a.ii): Assigned numeric toxicity trigger for initiation of a toxicity reduction evaluation (TRE) is set at > 20 TUC (5% effluent). Toxicity results from the current permit cycle (2008 - present) suggest the need for an increased trigger, with a maximum reported value of 16 TUC (6.25% effluent). The disparity between TUC allowed and shown TUC needs does not leave adequate margin for compliance. The Order recognizes the established effluent toxicity and seeks the determination of the cause for this toxicity in the Chronic Toxicity Study required by Provision VI.C.2.b. As such, and because the study seeks the determination of potential mitigation of the toxicity, the assignment of an increased toxicity trigger is warranted. Please consider allowing > 40 TUC in the renewed Order.

4. Monitoring Locations

- i. Page E-3 (Table E-1): The physical location for sampling of discharge from Ponds 6 and 7 is shared (contents are transferred from the ponds to the effluent discharge line via a common header). As such, the assignment of separate internal monitoring locations is not feasible.

5. Influent Monitoring Requirements

- a. Page E-4 (Table E-2): Please consider increasing the sampling frequency for influent total dissolved solids (TDS) concentrations from once per week to twice per month, consistent with those for influent BOD and TSS.

6. Internal Flow Monitoring Requirements

- a. Page E-4 (Table E-3): Consider removing the requirement to formally monitor internal flows in accordance with comments #2 and 12.
 - i. If Table E-3 remains in the final Order, remove reference notes 3, 4, and 14 from minimum sampling frequency for pH.

7. Chronic Toxicity Testing

- a. Page E-7 (Item VI.B.2): Add clarification that laboratory water is allowed as diluent, consistent with Section VI.B.7 and note 1 for table E-5.
- b. Page E-7 (Section VI.B.7): Change both callouts for "Table E-4" to correctly reference "Table E-5."

8. Receiving Water Monitoring Requirements

- a. Page E-9 and E-10 (Tables E-6 and E-7): Increased sampling frequencies for the receiving water create an undue financial hardship due to difficulty accessing the sampling location because of recurring unavailability of the associated boat ramp. Please consider reducing the sampling frequencies for pH, EC, temperature, and turbidity from "weekly" to "monthly" for both receiving water sampling locations.

9. Other Monitoring Requirements

- a. Page E-11 (Section X.A.1 and X.A.3): Change both callouts for "Table E-7" to correctly reference "Table E-8."

10. Other Reports

- a. Page E-18 (Table E-10): Modify reporting requirements as follows:
 - i. Mixing Zone/Dilution Confirmation Study, Workplan – due **within one year** of effective date of the Order, consistent with the requirements of Provision VI.C.2.c.

- ii. Mixing Zone/Dilution Confirmation Study, Final Report – due **no later than 180 days prior to expiration date of this Order**, consistent with the requirements of Provision VI.C.2.c.
- iii. Mixing Zone Biological Assessment, Report – due **no later than 180 days prior to expiration date of this Order**, consistent with the requirements of Provision VI.C.2.d.

11. Summary of Technology-based Effluent Limitations

- i. Page F-16 (Table F-6): Reference location for footnote 2 is not valid.

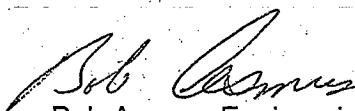
12. Rationale for Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

- i. Page F-73 (Provision VII.C): Reported rationale for internal monitoring at locations INT-001, INT-002, and INT-003 “for compliance with technology-based effluent limitations for BOD, TSS, and pH” is not accurate. CFR 40.407 establishes effluent limitations for BOD, TSS, and pH in the discharged effluent, and as such, compliance determination should be based on monitoring at the discharge location (i.e. EFF-001) and not newly established internal monitoring locations. Provide reference statute or delete all references to the internal monitoring locations located herein.

We appreciate the RWQCB's consideration of these matters as the final permit is developed.

Sincerely,

BELL CARTER OLIVE COMPANY, INC.



Bob Asmus, Engineering Manager

BJH:bh

cc: Ron Kerr, Bell-Carter
Eric Wold, Bell-Carter
Scott Parker, Carollo
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